whereas, in Greek, IHΣ should be written with the vowel *Ita,* H, and XPΣ with *Chi* and *Rho.* The error is due, as I have said, to the fact that *Ita* and the Latin aspirate are represented by the same figure, and that *Chi* and *Rho* also resemble the Latin X and P. For which reason I here beseech all well-purposed minds from this time on, when they would write the most holy & glorious name & surname of our Saviour, if they would write it in Latin, to hold to this spelling, IESVS, CHRISTVS without using therein any letters which are not required. And if they would abbreviate them, let them write them rather in Greek than otherwise, and this should be done thus: IHΣ, XPΣ, wherein none other than purely Greek letters are required. The Greek vowel *Ita,* H, when it is changed into Latin, becomes E, long in quantity, as in that glorious name IHΣOYΣ, IESVS, and a thousand other like words. Wherefore, we must write IESVS without any breathing, & CHRISTVS without X and without P. As for the Greek, from which the Latin is derived, there is none.

IH̄Σ XP̄Σ

IF you would know more fully about the orthography of these two precious names, Jesus and Christus, and see the true essence of all that I have written thereon, bestir yourself to read a little treatise which Aldus has printed and entitled *De Potestate Literarum Græcarum,* in the chapter *Quemadmodum Literæ ac Diphthongi Græcæ in Latinum transferantur.** You will be able there to satisfy your wish, if it be your pleasure so to employ yourself.

* *In the treatise called 'Grammaticis Græcæ Isagogæ,' printed at the end of the 1507 edition of the 'Grammatica.'*

THE Latin aspirate is written by the Germans as a simple letter symbol, but they pronounce it twice over—more than the Latins and Italians do. For, if they intended to say: *Heus heri habui herum hospitem,* they would say, as if there were a double aspirate: *Hheus hheri hhabui hherum hhospitem.* And I marvel that they do not write it so, even as they write VV,† of which they make use very often in words of their mother-tongue. They recall to my mind a man of long ago named Arius, who had the aspirate so ready to his hand and so familiar, that

† *See* N. E. D. *under* W.

he pronounced it where it was not proper to be pronounced. Wherefore that noble poet Catullus made this epigram against him.

Chommoda dicebat, si quando commoda vellet
Dicere, et hinsidias Arius insidias.
Et tamen mirifice sperabat se esse locutum,
Cum quantum poterat dixerat hinsidias.
Credo sic mater, si liber auunculus eius.
Sic maternus auus dixerat, atque auia.
Hoc misso in Syriam requierant omnibus aures,
Audibant eadem hæc leniter et leuiter.
Nec sibi post illa metuebant talia verba,
Cum subito affertur nuncius horribilis.
Ionios fluctus postquam illuc Arius isset,
Iam non Ionios esse, sed hionios.* * *Catullus,* LXXXIV. 53

THIS Arius, then, said *chommoda, hinsidias,* and *hionios,* with the aspirate; and he should not have done so. The said Germans do it from the habit they have of talking from the depth of their lungs and stomach. The Picards, as I have said before, pronounce it very well, with the C and without it. And I know no people in France whose tongues are more apt and expert in the proper pronunciation of Greek, Latin, and French, than the Picards.

THIS aspirate is very ill pronounced by I know not what village grammarians in the two interjections, *Ah* & *Vah,* which they pronounce *Ache* & *Vache,* as if the aspirate were, or ought to be, terminated by E; which cannot be, for the aspirate is neither vowel nor consonant, nor mute, nor liquid—consequently, no letter at all. So that it must be pronounced without any sound of its own, but only to follow the vowel to which it is added. Furthermore, *Ah* & *Vah* cannot, nor should, end in E, because they are interjections with their tails cut off, being, in full, *Aha* & *Vaha.* Of which thing, as I have said before, Priscian bears witness when he says in the chapter *De Accidentibus Literæ,* of his first book: *Quæritur cur in* Vah, *et* Ah, *post vocales ponitur aspiratio, et dicimus quod Apocopa facta est extreme vocalis cui præponebatur aspiratio, nam perfecta* Aha *et* Vaha *sunt.*† Pontanus,[54] in his first book, *De Aspiratione,* adds to these *Oha,* which also drops its final *A,* and remains *Oh.* I gladly mention this, because I see many persons go astray therein; and their

† I, V, 25.